

Abstract of the Disclosure

An image forming apparatus includes a light source provided with converting structure for converting an advancing direction of light emitted from the light source, whereby a direction in which the light source is disposed can be determined regardless of a direction in which light is emitted. The advancing direction of the light emitted from a light emitting element is converted into a direction in which light transmitting structure can transmit the light, so that a luminous intensity on a photosensitive drum can be increased. The light source is designed so as to increase a light emitting area of the light emitting element and condense light emitted therefrom. The light emitting element utilizes a flat luminous unit, which is combined with a light transmitting structure in one optical piece.